

**Arkansas Department of Education
 DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (DESE)
 LEA ASSURANCE and APPLICATION for
 Arkansas Ready for Learning Model and Appropriate Waivers
 for School Year 2020-2021**

The following assurance and application are for local education agencies (LEAs) that will fully implement a **Ready for Learning Model** for School Year 2020-2021. The Superintendent may provide an original signature, electronic signature, or typed signature attesting to compliance with the assurances. This form shall be submitted to ade.RfL@arkansas.gov, on or before June 26, 2020.

DISTRICT NAME	LEA NUMBER

Arkansas believes learning can happen anytime, anywhere. The COVID-19 pandemic put this belief to the test, and we are resolute in our commitment to the continuity of learning. Our vision to transform Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education is unwavering. In fact, it is more important now than ever before. As described in the Arkansas ESSA Plan, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) remains committed to the established process of continuous improvement through the six systems of public education. In the wake of COVID-19, Arkansas schools are now challenged to reassess their school and district plans. Arkansas has a strong foundation, and we have identified three key factors necessary for Arkansas to be Ready for Learning: blended learning, guaranteed and viable curriculum, and a student-focused approach.

The Arkansas Ready for Learning Model provides the LEA the opportunity to opt into a student-focused statewide model of blended learning to ensure the health and academic progress of each student.

The Arkansas Ready for Learning Model provides the LEA the flexibility to request waivers for remote learning with the assurance that learning continues and the LEA has

the ability to move to face-to-face, blended, or remote learning as needed without AMI approval or make-up days.

CERTIFICATIONS

I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above-named LEA, hereby, assure the DESE that during School Year 2020-2021, the above-named LEA will fully implement the **Arkansas Ready for Learning Model** in each school building, including without limitation:

Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum: The LEA will provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum for all buildings.

- Blended learning allows the student to continue learning grade level or content standards through an educational plan that leverages both technology-based and face-to-face instructional approaches. The LEA will provide blended learning for all students.
 - i) State Supported Option: Districts may choose to use the state provided digital content options and Learning Management Systems through approved digital providers (paid with CARES funds); and/or
 - ii) Local Option: District may choose to use district provided digital content options and Learning Management System.

- Diagnostic Assessment: The LEA will use diagnostic assessments to provide instructional support for educators and identify learning needs of each student.
 - i) State Supported Option: Districts may choose to expand their K-2 assessment choice to include grades 3-8 to provide adaptive and diagnostic assessments for instructional/learning purposes only; and/or
 - ii) Local Option: District may choose to continue to use ACT Aspire classroom assessments or teacher-developed assessments.

I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above-named LEA, hereby assure the DESE that the above-named LEA will post its School Year 2020-2021 **District Support Plan** on the district website (State Required Information) on or before September 1, 2020, and notify DESE by email, at ade.RfL@arkansas.gov, that it has been posted and provide the URL. The District Support Plan shall include how the LEA will support all buildings to full implementation of:

- Ensuring the continuity of teaching and learning by providing a guaranteed and viable curriculum that includes blended learning (K-12) and diagnostic assessments (K-8);
- Identifying how the LEA (district) will address unfinished learning from the prior year utilizing the Arkansas Playbook: Addressing Unfinished Learning or district developed resources;
- Utilizing a Learning Management System (LMS);
- Scheduling teacher training for utilizing the LMS;
- Scheduling teacher training for blended learning (delivery of instruction);
- Using effective technology for parents and students; and
- Providing a written communication plan for interacting with parents, students, and the community (how will the stakeholders know the expectations day-to-day).

I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above-named LEA, hereby request the following **waivers for School Year 2020-2021, effective July 1, 2020:**

- Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-117 (*Non instructional duties - only for the purpose of implementing ADH requirements or guidelines regarding health and safety*)
- Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-204(b) (*Teacher contracts - only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model*)
- Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-205(b)(2) (*Teacher contracts - only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model*)
- Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-2304(b) (*Classified employee contracts - only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model*)
- Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-2305(c)(2) (*Classified employee contracts - only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model*)

The following waivers apply only on days, or portions of days, when technology-based approaches are the primary instructional delivery, for specific groups of students that are receiving their instruction primarily through technology-based approaches, or for staff providing instruction primarily through technology-based approaches, or if necessary to implement ADH requirements or guidelines:

- Ark. Code Ann. 6-16-102(a)(1) through (a)(5)(E)(i)(b), and (c) (*School Day*)

- Standard for Accreditation 1-A.4.2 and 1-A.4.3 (*School Day*)
- Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-111(a) (*Duty-free lunch*)
- Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-114 (*Planning time*)
- Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-211 (*Employee leave*)
- Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-812(a)(2) (*Class size*)
 - DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load, Sec. 3.00 and 4.01 through 4.03
 - DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding, Sec. 4.03.2 through 4.03.2.2.1
 - DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools, Sec. 7.10.1 and 7.10.2
 - Standard for Accreditation 1-A.5

I, the undersigned Superintendent for the above-named LEA, hereby acknowledge that failure to fully implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model, failure to adhere to these assurances, or failure to submit or fully implement the District Support Plan, may result in a review by the State Board of Education and modification or revocation of any or all waivers.

SUPERINTENDENT NAME (printed) and SIGNATURE	DATE